



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of
HB 5273: An Act Concerning the Penalty for Assault of an Off-Duty Police Officer.
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee
March 1, 2016

Good Morning Chairman Dargan, Chairman Larson, Ranking Members Representative Zupkus, Senator Guglielmo and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I want to thank the committee for raising HB 5273 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ASSAULT OF AN OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICER.

I am asking for this committee's support of this bill. As we see more often around the country our First Responders are under attack. People are shooting at, throwing objects at, and assaulting our first responders. Their responsibility is to keep the peace of their community and there are occasions when they may encounter a situation where there can be bodily harm. Through this bill we are sending a message to our first responders that while they are protecting our safety, we will continually work to protect theirs.

Enhancing the penalty for the assault of a reasonably identifiable off-duty police officer will send a message to these people that intentionally assault these officers will not be tolerated. When I was a young child I asked my neighbor, who was a police officer, what does the word cop mean. He told me the word COP means that a police officer is "Continuously On Patrol" and I believe he was right. A police officer on or off-duty is always on patrol looking out for our safety much like an off-duty firefighter is always keeping an eye out for safety when they are out in the public and an EMS person on or-off duty will take action should someone take ill in their presence.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 5273, and I urge the committee's support

Ben McGorty
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